

Message Text

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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

S E C R E T STATE 000807

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MILI, MASS, XA

SUBJECT: TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR MILITARY SURVEY TEAM--
GABON

REFERENCE: A) STATE 303012; B) LIBREVILLE 2151

FOLLOWING ARE THE STATE/DOD TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR MILITARY
SURVEY TEAM

1. BACKGROUND/PROBLEM: PRESIDENT BONGO HAS REQUESTED US
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SECURITY ASSISTANCE. HE IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE THREAT TO

GABONESE SECURITY POSED BY EQUATORIAL GUINEA AND CONGO (BRAZZAVILLE) AND THE TYPES AND AVAILABILITY OF ARMS FOR THE GABONESE ARMED FORCES. PRESIDENT BONGO ALSO IS DIS-SATISFIED WITH BEING LARGELY DEPENDENT ON FRANCE FOR EQUIPPING AND TRAINING THE GABONESE MILITARY AND WISHES TO DIVERSIFY EQUIPMENT AND PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES. IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THAT A US MILITARY SURVEY TEAM WILL VISIT GABON TO EXAMINE AND ASSESS GABON'S SECURITY REQUIREMENTS. THE SURVEY ALSO SHOULD PROVIDE A CONCRETE DEMONSTRATION OF POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT BONGO AND OTHER MODERATE AFRICAN LEADERS AND REASSURE THEM OF USG INTENTIONS AND RESOLVE IN AFRICA. WHILE WAYS OF US SUPPORT TO GABON'S NEEDS ARE TO BE IDENTIFIED, IT IS NEITHER INTENDED NOR

DESIRED THAT THE USG REPLACE FRANCE AS GABON'S PRINCIPAL MILITARY SUPPLIER.

2. MISSION: THE MISSION OF THE SURVEY TEAM IS TO:

A. OBTAIN FROM THE GABONESE THEIR ASSESSMENT OF THE THREATS (INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL) TO GABON'S SECURITY.

B. ASSESS THE DEFENSIVE CAPABILITIES OF THE GABONESE ARMED FORCES (ARMY, NAVY, AND AIR FORCE) AND PARAMILITARY FORCES (GENDARMERIE, NATIONAL POLICE, AND GABONESE PRESIDENTIAL GUARD) IN RELATION TO ABOVE THREATS AND THOSE DEVELOPED INDEPENDENTLY BY THE TEAM.

C. IDENTIFY SPECIFIC GABONESE SECURITY NEEDS AND DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO HOW THE USG COULD BEST MEET THEM. CATEGORIZE RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO NEAR-TERM AND LONG-TERM ACTIONS AND SPECIFY PRIORITIES WITHIN EACH CATEGORY. CONSIDER BOTH MATERIEL AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS. ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS PERTAINING TO ORGANIZATION, ROLES, AND MISSIONS OF THE GABONESE MILITARY AND PARAMILITARY ARE TO BE AVOIDED EXCEPT WHERE REQUIRED IN DETERMINING EQUIPMENT, AMMUNITION, OR TRAINING REQUIREMENTS.

3. OBJECTIVES: THE OBJECTIVES OF THE SURVEY ARE:

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A. TO DEMONSTRATE USG GOOD INTENTIONS AND RESOLVE IN AFRICA.

B. TO PORTRAY USG INTEREST IN DETERMINING GABON'S PRECISE SECURITY REQUIREMENTS BUT NOT MAKE ANY COMMITMENTS, DIRECT OR IMPLIED, FOR FUTURE USG ASSISTANCE.

C. TO IDENTIFY BOTH NEAR-TERM AND LONG-TERM APPROACHES FOR MEANINGFUL USG ASSISTANCE.

D. TO AVOID GIVING THE FRENCH ANY IMPRESSION THAT USG MIGHT DESIRE TO SUPPLANT THEIR RELATIONSHIPS WITH GABONESE MILITARY.

E. TO PROVIDE A BASIS FOR EVALUATION OF ANY FUTURE REQUESTS BY GABON TO PURCHASE US MILITARY EQUIPMENT OR TRAINING.

4. OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES:

A. COLONEL WALTER G. KERSEY, US ARMY IS DESIGNATED AS TEAM CHIEF.

B. TEAM IS TO ARRIVE IN GABON ON OR ABOUT 5 JANUARY 1976 AND REMAIN FOR APPROXIMATELY 10 DAYS. WHILE IN GABON, THE SURVEY TEAM WILL FUNCTION UNDER THE CHIEF OF MISSION. MAJOR POINTS OF DISCUSSION WITH THE GABONESE WILL BE CLEARED WITH THE AMBASSADOR.

C. UPON ARRIVAL IN GABON, THE SURVEY TEAM WILL MEET WITH COUNTRY TEAM MEMBERS, AS APPROPRIATE, WHO WILL PROVIDE INFORMATION AS TO THE TEAM'S ACTIVITIES IN GABON AND ON CONSULTATIONS WITH THE GABONESE REPRESENTATIVES AND FRENCH MILITARY ADVISERS. THE COUNTRY TEAM WILL ARRANGE A MAXIMUM NUMBER OF HIGH LEVEL CONTACTS FOR THE SURVEY TEAM.

D. IN-DEPTH QUESTIONING, OBSERVATIONS, AND ANALYSIS OF ANY AVAILABLE IN-COUNTRY REPORTS WILL SERVE AS THE BASIS FOR FORMULATION OF THE FINAL REPORT. THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SURVEY TEAM SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT:

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(1) GENERAL OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENT.

(2) RELATIONSHIPS AMONG THE ARMED FORCES AND PARAMILITARY ORGANIZATIONS.

(3) CURRENT OR PROJECTED FRENCH OR OTHER COUNTRY ASSISTANCE THAT IS IDENTIFIED.

(4) GABONESE MANPOWER BASE.

(5) ABSORPTION CAPABILITY (I.E. OPERATE AND MAINTAIN US EQUIPMENT; COMPATIBILITY WITH CURRENT EQUIPMENT).

(6) LOGISTIC SUPPORT CAPABILITIES.

E. NO MILITARY ADVICE WILL BE PROVIDED TO GABONESE OFFICIALS BY TEAM MEMBERS.

F. TEAM MEMBERS WILL NOT WEAR MILITARY UNIFORMS WHILE IN GABON, EXCEPT FOR APPROPRIATE CEREMONIAL OCCASIONS, AND THEN ONLY ON THE ADVICE OF THE AMBASSADOR.

5. REPORTS:

A. WHILE IN COUNTRY, THE TEAM CHIEF WILL KEEP THE AMBASSADOR INFORMED ON PROGRESS OF THE SURVEY. BRIEF MEMORANDA OF CONVERSATIONS WITH HIGH-LEVEL GABONESE AND FRENCH ADVISERS WILL BE PREPARED.

B. INTERIM REPORTS, IF REQUIRED, WILL BE SUBMITTED WITH CONCURRENCE OF AMBASSADOR TO SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (ISA) AND SECRETARY OF STATE, WITH INFORMATION TO JCS AND EUCOM.

C. IN COURSE OF THE SURVEY, NO COMMITMENT WILL BE MADE TO THE GABONESE AS TO IF, WHAT, WHEN, OR HOW US ASSISTANCE MIGHT BE FURNISHED. NO AVAILABILITY LISTS WILL BE PROVIDED OR DISCUSSED. NATIONAL DISCLOSURE POLICY PROHIBITS THE RELEASE OF CLASSIFIED MILITARY INFORMATION TO THE GABONESE WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL OF AN EXCEPTION TO POLICY.

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D. TEAM'S FINAL REPORT TO BE PREPARED UPON RETURN TO WASHINGTON AND SUBMITTED TO OSD(ISA) AND STATE NOT LATER THAN 26 JANUARY 1976. CONCURRENTLY, THE SURVEY REPORT WILL BE PROVIDED TO DIRECTOR, JOINT STAFF FOR JCS REVIEW AND COMMENTS TO OSD(ISA) BY 9 FEBRUARY 1976. DOD(ISA) WILL COORDINATE NECESSARY ACTIONS ON THE REPORT WITH DEPARTMENT OF STATE AFTER OBTAINING JCS COMMENTS.

E. ANY DECISION TO RELASE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF GABON DETAILS OF THE SURVEY AND DETERMINATION OF ANY APPROPRIATE CHANGES WILL BE MADE JOINTLY BY THE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND DEFENSE.

6. LOGISTICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT:

A. COUNTY TEAM WILL ARRANGE NECESSARY BILLETING, MESSING, TRANSPORTATION, AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT WHILE SURVEY TEAM IS IN COUNTRY.

B. ARMY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED BY JCS AS EXECUTIVE AGENT AND WILL PROVIDE ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT INCLUDING TYPING

OF FINAL SURVEY REPORT. INGERSOLL

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